Consulates. They have been instructed to take adequate security measures and inform their employers and the Embassy/Posts in case they perceive any security threat. Our Embassy in Kabul has also held meetings with representatives of Indian companies to emphasise the need for observing security precautions. Government of India are in constant touch with the Government of Afghanistan, which has assured that it will take all the steps necessary to provide security to Indians in Afghanistan.

Boundary dispute with Pakistan

1844. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special representatives of India and China recently met in the Capital and held discussion on the boundary dispute between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The ninth round of talk between the Special Representatives of India and China was held in New Delhi from January 16 to 18, 2007, to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship, the framework for the settlement of India-China Boundary Question. Both sides agreed to hold the next round of talks between the Special Representatives at a mutually convenient time which will be decided through the diplomatic channel.

Ethnic conflict in Nepal

1845. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the ethnic conflict in the Terai region of Nepal;

(b) whether victims of the ethnic conflict are crossing over into India; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have raised the issue of ethnic violence in Nepal against people of Indian origin;

(d) if so, the response of that Government;

(e) whether Government have also taken cognizance of the statements by the leadership of Maoist groups in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have noted the recent incidents in the Terai region of Nepal which have also resulted in some persons crossing over into India temporarily.

(c) to (f) Yes. In response, the Government of Nepal has stated that they are committed to addressing all genuine grievances, and to ensuring the safety and security of all Indians in Nepal. Government have welcomed the address by Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. G.P. Koirala to the Nepalese nation on February 7, 2007 addressing the demands of the Madheshi population of the country and have noted that the address reflected the consensus among eight political parties, including the CPN (Maoist), of Nepal.

Pakistani's proposals on resolution of Kashmir problem

1846. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposal from President of Pakistan, seeking resolution of the so-called "Kashmir Problem" and, subsequently, affirmed to the media to be opened to "new ideas" to resolve the "Kashmir issue";

(b) if so, the details of the "Kashmir Problem" perceived, if any, by the Pakistani President in his proposal and/or that of the "Kashmir issue" as hinted to the media;

(c) whether it is a fact that discussions in covert manner are being conducted at official levels between the two countries;

(d) if so, the objective behind it; and